

Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

# Torrance



# Gerald

"There is no Substitute for Circulation."

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## PROTEST SKY = HIGH VALUATIONS

### Jamieson Oil Company Purchases Five Wells Near the Lora J.

#### TORRANCE ASSESSED TOO HIGH

Citizens Asked to Bring Tax Receipts to C. of C. Secretary

WILL LODGE OBJECTIONS  
Boost of Property Values Here Exorbitant, Belief After Study

Receipt of tax notices by property owners in Torrance revealed unusual increases in the assessed valuation placed on Torrance property and started a movement that may result in official objection to the county assessor against the boosts.

Tax notices revealed that, although the aggregate tax rate is considerably lower than that of last year, the city of Torrance this year will pay the tax collector approximately 65 per cent more than it did in 1923. This increase is due entirely to the increase in assessed valuation.

Last year Torrance had an assessed valuation of \$5,948,130. This year it is \$10,519,985. Last year Torrance property owners paid taxes amounting to \$202,660. This year they will pay \$325,994—an increase of \$123,334.

Mrs. Fred Rees yesterday consulted with the Los Angeles county officials concerning the increases in Torrance valuations and was informed that it will still be possible to make official objections by affidavit against the assessments.

Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, is investigating the question. Property owners who believe their assessments to be exorbitant are requested to consult Mr. Hyde and bring with them their tax receipts for 1922, 1923, and their tax notices for this year. Residents are urged to pay no taxes until the Chamber of Commerce completes its investigation.

It is probable that the Chamber of Commerce will, if supplied with sufficient data, lodge strenuous objection to the increases with the county assessor.

Study of various tax notices shows that the increases here vary from 75 to 900 per cent. Experts assert values should be LOWER this year, rather than higher.

In the oil district some lots were increased 900 per cent, although many of them are definitely proven to be out of the oil territory.

Numerous valuations in the same district show that no consistent system of fixing assessments was followed.

Much property in the city is valued higher than the property would bring on the market today. The assessments were fixed when property here was at its peak price and when it was deemed possible that the city of Torrance was in proven oil territory.

#### Pay Envelopes Will Be Given Out at Theatre

Torrance Show House Will Present Patrons With Money Wednesday

The management of the Torrance theatre is inaugurating a feature which should gather unto itself a host of sympathizers, not to say downright admirers. Pay Day is the name of the stunt, and some-how it seems to appeal to touch the heartstrings, particularly of those of us who are unfortunate enough to be newspaper men.

Wednesday night is to be Pay Day, and every patron is promised a pay envelope containing real tender. Of course, as in real life, some will receive more pay than others. There will also be a Grand Prize, said to be almost equal to a living wage.

#### Coolidge Club Committee To Meet Tonight

All Interested in G. O. P. Ticket Invited to Legion Hall

Members of the general campaign committee of the Torrance Coolidge Club, and other citizens interested in promoting the interests of the Republican party in Torrance, will meet tonight at 7:30 at Legion hall to make detailed plans for the campaign in Torrance.

Enthusiasm greeted the formation of the Coolidge Club here, according to the committee. Scores of voters have called at the headquarters in George Neill's office on Cabildo avenue for Coolidge-Dawes buttons, pictures and wind-shield stickers.

#### Keystone Child, Struck by Auto, Badly Injured

Ruby Richardson, Aged 6, Suffers Concussion of Brain

Little Ruby Richardson, age 6, of Keystone, is suffering from concussion of the brain, sustained when struck by an automobile last Sunday. The child ran into the path of the machine and, according to officials, the accident was unavoidable.

The child, who was on her way home from Sunday school, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. Richardson.

#### Perform Operation On J. H. Erwin

Stricken suddenly, J. H. Erwin, proprietor of the Hotel Erwin, was rushed to the Hermosa-Redondo hospital Saturday, where an operation for appendicitis was performed by Drs. Lancaster and Shidler.

Reports from the hospital this morning are to the effect that Mr. Erwin's condition is favorable.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Young and son John, of Gramercy avenue, were entertained Sunday at Alhambra by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Devine.

The weddings took place at different times, beginning in 1915. The same minister performed all of them.

In time there may be six Stonesifer brothers married to six Stonesifer sisters, for there are two single sisters and two single brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Stonesifer live in Deep Run, Md. Mr. and Mrs. Lester E. Stonesifer in Hanover, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Stonesifer in Union Mills, Md., and Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Stonesifer in McHenry, this state.

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#### CLUB WILL CONTINUE PROBE

Movement Not Based on Lack of Confidence in Teachers

TO SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
Progress Organization Will Aid School Investigators if Necessary

Members of the Torrance Progress Club Friday night passed two resolutions concerning the projected movement for secession from the Los Angeles school district.

One placed the club on record unanimously behind representations which the school committee may make to the board of education, and the other made clear that the movement for secession is not based on any lack of confidence in the Torrance staff of teachers.

A preliminary report was made by the school committee. After the report the club voted unanimously to instruct the committee to continue its investigation and promised hearty support from all members when they are called upon by the committee.

#### Plan Specialties At Nov. 11 Dance

An unusual program of specialties is promised by the committee which is planning for the dance to be given by the American Legion Auxiliary at Moose hall on Tuesday night, Nov. 11 (Armistice Day).

The Torrance Synopsators will furnish the music. Members of the Auxiliary will be entertained tonight at the home of Mrs. E. S. Frenger on Hawthorne boulevard.

Mrs. Catherine Baldwin of Los Angeles was a dinner guest and danced the evening Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Marie Dannelly.

W. L. Woodburn has taken a house in Park Terrace.

#### Oil Contractor Is Found Dead In Lomita Lot

John Young Killed Self, Says Coroner, After Probing Mystery

That John T. Young, aged 52, who was found dead in a field near Beacon and Eshelman streets in Lomita Saturday with a bullet-hole in his shoulder and through his heart, killed himself, was the decision of the coroner in Los Angeles yesterday afternoon.

With the signing of a certificate of suicide the coroner obliterated the necessity of an inquest and set aside, officially, at least, the theory that Young was murdered.

Pleading facts together, officials ascertained that Young, an oil drilling contractor, who had lived here about a year, left his rooming house, the home of Mrs. Mary L. White, Chestnut and Narbonne avenues about 1 o'clock Friday night.

Residents near the intersections of Eshelman and Flower and Eshelman and Beacon streets declare they heard shots about midnight Friday. Some say they heard three or four, and others assert they heard as many as six or seven ring out on the night air.

Young's body was found Saturday morning by Solomon Angelich, a Lomita boy. The body was on its back, with the left hand resting on the breast and the right hand lying at the side. Near the right hand was a .38 caliber revolver—cocked. On the ground were three empty shells.

Constable Taber was called and immediately notified the sheriff's department. Capt. W. J. Bright came from Los Angeles and took charge of the case. They learned that Young had made a will leaving his life insurance with a value of \$7000, his automobile and some mining stock to Mrs. White, his landlady.

Mr. White said to a reporter today: "I did not know that Mr. Young had made such a will. I learned of it first when Fred Jones informed me. I know of no reason why Mr. Young should have killed himself."

"Did he ever speak of his family or any relatives?" Mrs. White was asked.

"I never heard him mention any friends or relatives," she replied. "He was a quiet man who talked (Continued on Last Page)

#### SOLON FOR DAM, HE AVERS

Capt. Fredericks Tells Progress Club He Always Favored Project

CANAL 'DOG IN MANGER'  
Asserts Tail Wags Dog in Swing-Johnson Ditch Provision

Congressman John D. Fredericks told the Progress Club Friday night that he is and always has been in favor of construction of the Boulder dam. The congressman pointed out that it was to encourage the construction of the dam and to aid in harbor development that he decided to run for Congress.

"When I got down there," he said, "I found the Swing-Johnson bill, providing for the construction of the dam, but also calling for the construction of the All-American canal."

Mr. Fredericks said that the canal is 250 miles BELOW the proposed dam and is connected with it in no way. "With the canal provision in the bill, that bill will not pass Congress," said Mr. Fredericks.

"It has been my contention all along that the canal provision should be considered separately."

Characterizing the canal provision as "the dog in the manger," the congressman asserted that if it were taken out of the Swing-Johnson bill, the measure would pass next winter.

"The congressmen from the middle west cannot be persuaded to vote for the canal," he declared, "but they can be persuaded to vote for the dam."

Mr. Fredericks asserted that the dam was too big a project for private individuals to attempt and that it should be built by the government.

He ended by asserting that the canal provision in the dam bill is a case of "the tail trying to wag the dog."

H. A. Nater, vice-president of the Bank of Italy and director of the State Exchange Bank here, spoke on "Vision."

#### Should Local Dept. Fight Flames In Shoestring Strip?

Although they referred the matter to the fire committee, members of the board of trustees last night went on record in favor of having the Torrance fire department arrange strip. A letter from Robert Dominguez, Los Angeles city clerk, declared that the city of Los Angeles would not pay for such service.

Trustee Fitzhugh and Mayor Smith declared that the city of Torrance could not in decency refuse to answer a call and allow buildings to burn down in the shoestring strip.

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#### Observations

Coolidge on Disarmament—Wall Street's Wagers—For Election Night—Building and Music—Oil Trial On—Thanks to Mark Twain

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE writes an interesting letter to Marion Eppley, national chairman of Navy Day. Pointing out the great CONSTRUCTIVE work accomplished by Uncle Sam's gray ships, the President asserts that Congress should appropriate money enough to maintain our fleet on a strength equal to that of any other power—this in accordance with the 5-5-3 ratio.

The President then declares: "It must be an occasion of pride to all friends of the Navy that this momentous step toward the perpetuation of peace (the Washington disarmament conference) was taken in the realm of navy policy. That it will prove only the beginning of an international program involving continuing reductions of armament by land, by sea and in the air, is the earnest hope of all who are interested in the abolition of war."

To all who are watching with misgivings the development of an air force in Japan in 17 big aeroplane factories, this is a welcome statement from the President.

The United States is not seeking war with Japan. Nor do we wish to enter into a disastrous race with the Tokio government to see which can build the most weapons of war.

If Japan builds 200 aeroplanes, Uncle Sam must build 300—thus starting an endless chain of belligerent competition, such as that which eventually brought Britain and Germany at each other's throats.

The construction of war aeroplanes should be limited, held within reason. The cry for more dirigibles and aeroplanes in this country is the direct result of Japan's ambitious program. If Japan is limited in her air-fleet schedule, we should be perfectly willing to adopt a program of proportionate limitation.

THE odds go up on Coolidge. Wall Street betting brokers now offer wagers of 5 to 2 that the President will be re-elected. Wall Street usually knows what it is betting about. In 1912 brokers gave big odds on Wilson. In 1916 Hughes was the favorite at first, but the odds were on Wilson later. In 1920 the odds on Harding were between 10 to 1 and 2 to 1.

Meantime the campaign nears its climax. In national politics, leaders know that the big work must be done before 10 days preceding the election. About all they do during the last week is to predict victory—and attempt to hold the citizens they have won over during the campaign.

The most noteworthy fact of this entire campaign is the lack of a campaign for Davis. The apathy of his party indicates its early demise. The Democrats committed suicide at New York. The movement toward the new alignment of conservatives and liberals, started by Bryan in 1896 and given impetus by Roosevelt in 1912, has almost reached its goal. Old guard leaders admit that LaFollette will poll enough votes to serve as a foundation for a new liberal party, made up shortly by progressive Republicans and Democrats, who will be opposed by the liberal thinkers from both the old parties.

It is written plain that the Democratic campaign melody is the swan-song of the old party.

Nor will the Republican organization bear much resemblance to its old self. The crumbling of the party that reached the height of its strength under the expert guidance of Mark Hanna started in 1912. There was a slight reaction four years ago. But four years hence the conservative element of the G. O. P., by their alignment with former conservative Democrats, will be proving that old statement that "politics makes strange bedfellows."

THE election takes place two weeks from today. He who is interested in the result can get the returns by radio. To make the radio bulletins mean something, however, he must prepare. A list of the states with the number of electoral votes of each set opposite should be compiled. It takes 266 electoral votes to elect a president. As the bulletins from the states are announced, the listeners may keep their own tabulations, and total them up as they go along. For the convenience of the public we will, before election, publish a list of the states and the number of electoral delegates to which each is entitled.

CALIFORNIA, according to the largest manufacturer of pipe wind-instruments in the world, uses more musical instruments per capita than any other state in the union.

That is good news. This state is still hard at work building and developing itself materially. When it can take time from this work to play more musical instruments than any other state in the union, the future is bright. It proves that the Golden State is not all materialism, not all civic boasting, not all real estate. Material progress without proportionate progress in the cultural arts is worthless, according to the correct judgment of values.

Most real estate men and most music. That is a pretty good sign, for it means more population and more attention to the arts.

YESTERDAY the United States opened its legal battle to win back for the people the oil lands leased by the government, through the agency of Albert Fall, to the Dohney interests. The greatest array of legal talent ever assembled on the Pacific coast are at hand to handle the case.

The government will attempt to show that the lease was obtained through illicit means and will introduce evidence calculated to show a connection between the hundred-thousand-dollar black bag "loaned" to Fall by Dohney and the lease of the oil land. The Dohney attorneys, through experts, will endeavor to establish that the government needed oil in storage and not in the ground and that the lease was the best the government could ever hope to obtain.

Taking the oil scandal by and large, with due consideration for the delay of the law, one must conclude that the trial of the case only a few months after the investigation indicates that the administration is doing all in its power to see that justice is accomplished.

#### DEEP TEST OWNERS EXPAND

Lora J. on Palm Street Will Be Given Trial This Week

BOTTOM NOW AT 4140 FT. Will Make Sure of Water Shut-off Before Drilling Deeper

The Jamieson Oil Company, which is making a deep test with the Lora J. No. 1 on East Palm street, has purchased five oil wells in East Lomita from Bush and Voorhis, it was definitely learned today.

The Bush and Voorhis wells are south of the Lora J., which has become, during the past week, the center of interest for operators, field scouts and local landowners.

Purchase of the Bush and Voorhis wells by the Jamieson company indicates one of two facts: either the company has high hopes of striking another sand, or it is operating in accordance with the theory that it is not worth while to make an expensive deep test until the company making the test has substantial holdings in the neighborhood.

After securing what looked like a successful shut-off at 4070 feet, the Jamieson Saturday and Sunday drilled ahead to 4140 feet. A test will be made shortly to determine for certain whether the water has been entirely shut off. The shut company, half a mile north at the Kettler No. 2, shut off water at 4055 feet, and the Jamieson field men think they may have cemented too high at the Lora J. The dip of the salt-water stratum from the Kettler to the Lora J. may be more than 100 feet. For this reason the test will be made this week, so that the well may be drilled ahead only after the operators are sure that the water is not coming through.

#### Announce New Marking Plan For Students

Lower Gradings Bring Veritable "Storm" From Parents Here

A new system of marking students' cards has been instituted in the Torrance schools, Principal Bell announced yesterday.

As heretofore, marks will be from No. 1 to No. 5. Parents are informed, however, that the marks should not be interpreted as they were last year.

No. 1 this year stands for a perfect mark and will seldom be used. No. 2 means very good, and No. 3 means average. Parents are informed that the mark of No. 3 indicates acceptable standing and will be used frequently. No. 4 means poor, and No. 5 means failure.

Parents who received cards yesterday literally stormed the school with complaints against the new system of marking, asserting that the children, not understanding the new system, were discouraged at the "low" marks they received.

#### Cousin of Local Woman Is Elected By Wide Margin

Mrs. Alice Smallfield Schneider, said to be the first woman elected a member of a board of education in California, has been returned to the board again at Stockton. Mrs. Schneider, who is a cousin of Dr. Minnie Proctor of Torrance, received the second highest number of votes for the office, receiving less than 150 votes below the highest number cast for this office and over 1600 above the third candidate elected.

IDA M. TARBELL, liberal thinker, came out for Coolidge. Several noted women liberals immediately take her to task. She replies that she does not doubt the honesty of La Follette and his supporters, but that she doubts the logic of their thinking.

When that day comes in American politics when opponents can doubt the logic of one another's thinking without impugning (Continued on Last Page)